



NEWS

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Pollution Levels Elevated

AIR DISTRICT ADVISES PUBLIC ABOUT POLLUTION LEVELS DUE TO CROY FIRE

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District has recorded elevated levels of particulate matter (PM) in the Croy Fire area and is advising the public in areas affected by the smoke to be cautious and avoid unnecessary outdoor activities. Children, seniors and those with respiratory problems such as asthma are the most susceptible to health effects due to high PM levels.

The Air District has recorded instantaneous PM readings from a portable monitor near the fire that are well above the normal range for September. The Air District has also analyzed air samples taken near the fire that show elevated levels of PM, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons well above normal readings for this time of year. The highest PM and carbon monoxide readings are normally recorded during the winter months.

In addition, southeasterly winds this morning are carrying the smoke further north in the Santa Clara Valley, closer to populated areas. The Air District has received numerous calls from the public and from schools regarding the smoke from the fire.

"It's prudent to take precautions if your area is being affected by the smoke," said Gary Kendall, the Air District's Technical Director. "Given the magnitude of the fire, this may continue for several days," Kendall said.

The Santa Clara County Public Health Department is advising schools in the Morgan Hill and Gilroy areas to curtail children's outdoor activities as much as possible. In other areas of Santa Clara County that are not as impacted, residents with pre-existing respiratory or cardiovascular disease are advised to limit vigorous outdoor activity. Santa Clara County residents with health questions can call (408) 885-3980 for further information.

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